

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 257273

44

ORIGIN ARA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND/CH:LBLEVINE

APPROVED BY: ARA/AND/CH:RSDRISCOLL

----- 112542

R 181503Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 257273

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM SANTIAGO DTD 15 OCT 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, CI, US

SUBJECT: LETELIER ASSASSINATION: ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN EXILES

REF: (A) 75 SANTIAGO 1131 (B) 75 SANTIAGO 1607

1. REFTELS REPORTED THE VISIT TO SANTIAGO IN FEBRUARY 1975 OF CUBAN EXILES ARZANDRO VIDEL VALDES, FRANCISCO BATLLI, AND LUIS FUENTES. THEY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE FOR CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AND, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, URGED PRESIDENT PINOCHET IN AN INTERVIEW TO RECOGNIZE AN EVENTUAL CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. PINOCHET WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

2. OCTOBER 13 AN EMBOFF WAS VISITED BY A CHILEAN CIVILIAN WHO AT THAT TIME HAD BEEN ON THE STAFF OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE JUNTA (COAJ)--A COMMITTEE UNDER MILITARY LEADERSHIP THAT ADVISES THE PRESIDENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS. THE SOURCE SAID THAT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE FEBRUARY 19, 1975 MEETING WITH PINOCHET, A LETTER ARRIVED FROM THE CUBANS TO THE PRESIDENT, WHICH WAS BUCKED TO COAJ FOR RECOMMENDATION. OUR SOURCE SAID HE WAS ASKED TO HANDLE THE MATTER. HE FOUND THE LETTER VERY CRUDE, IN STYLE AND LANGUAGE, AND ALSO IN THOUGHT: THE CUBANS SUGGESTED THAT IN RETURN FOR THE USE OF CHILE AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 257273

A SAFEHAVEN IN CASE OF TROUBLE ABROAD, THEY WOULD TAKE CARE

OF ANY CHILEAN EXILES THE GOC WOULD LIKE TO INDICATE. THE SOURCE RECOMMENDED STRONGLY AGAINST ANY FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE CUBANS, AND COAJ RETURNED THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF ON THAT BASIS. THE SOURCE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LETTER BUT IS TRYING TO FOLLOW UP.

3. COMMENT: THE SOURCE SAID HE DOUBTED THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION, BUT THOUGHT IT WORTH NOTING TO THE EMBASSY. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE SOURCE'S RELIABILITY. HE SEEMS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND WELL INFORMED. WHILE HE WAS ON THE COAJ STAFF HE SURPRISED EMBOFFS BY HIS STRONG CRITICISM OF THE GOC. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN HIRED BECAUSE HE WOULD REPRESENT A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT; EMBOFFS COULD NOT HELP WONDERING WHETHER HE WAS A PROVOCATEUR. POPPER UNQTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, ASSASSINATION, GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, COMMITTEES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE257273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/AND/CH:LBLEVINE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760390-1000
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761041/aaaabiyw.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 1131, 75 SANTIAGO 1607
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETELIER ASSASSINATION: ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN EXILES
TAGS: PFOR, CU, CI, US, (LETELIER, ORLANDO), (VIDEL VALDES, ARZANDRO), (BATLLI, FRANCISCO), (FUENTES, LUIS)
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006